

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicant's claim for foreign priority. Because the Applicant's claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicant at this time.

DRAWINGS

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicant. The drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. No further action is necessary.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 112

Claims 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action indicates claims 8 and 18 are incomplete for emitting essential structural cooperative relationships of the elements. Accordingly, dependent claims 8 and 18 have been amended to clarify how the elements work together to produce the voltage supplied to the other vehicle equipment. The amendments to these claims are supported at least by paragraphs [00030] and [00031]. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 4, 11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Sullivan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a power supply apparatus for an electric vehicle which includes a vehicle power supply for driving an electric motor and other vehicle equipment. The apparatus includes intermediate voltage application means for setting a line defined by an intermediate voltage between a drive voltage and a ground voltage of said vehicle power supply as a ground line for said other vehicle equipment, and power supply means for producing a voltage to be applied to said other vehicle equipment based on the drive voltage of said vehicle power supply and the intermediate voltage. Independent claim 11 includes similar features in a varying scope.

On the contrary, Sullivan teaches batteries B1 and B2 connected in series. Further, 24 volts are supplied to the 24 volt load (14) and 12 volts is supplied to the 12 volt load (16). However, the grounds of both the 24 volt load (14) and 12 volt load (16) are the vehicle ground (i.e., 0 volts). Therefore, there will be a large voltage between the drive voltage of 24 volts and the ground line of the vehicle. Thus, Sullivan differs from the claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 11 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 13 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over Sullivan in view of Welches et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted this rejection has also been overcome as the claims rejected therein are dependent claims and Welches et al. also do not teach or suggest the features nor the combination of elements recited in the independent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

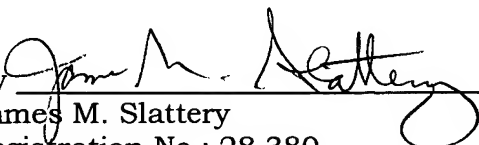
Since the remaining patent cited by the Examiner has not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the David A. Bilodeau at (703) 205-8072 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees. In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: April 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
James M. Slattery
Registration No.: 28,380
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

JMS/DAB/cm

JMS/DAB/cm